

- [54] ISOQUINOLINIUM DERIVATIVES, THEIR
PREPARATION AND PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING THEM

[71] The Wellcome Foundation Limited, London, England

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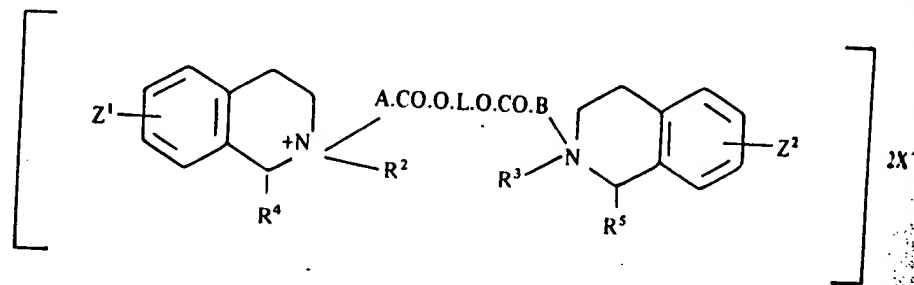
המפלכה המאוחדת

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- [57] Compounds of the formula



wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are the same or different and each represents a methylenedioxy substituent, or up to three methoxy substituents;

R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each is alkyl having 1-3 carbon atoms;

R^4 and R^5 are the same or different and each is a benzyl or phenethyl group wherein the phenyl ring is optionally substituted by one or more of halogen, alkoxy having 1 to 3 carbon atoms and methylenedioxy;

A and B are the same or different and each is an alkylene radical containing 1, 2 or 3 carbon atoms;

L is an alkylene chain having from 2 to 12 carbon atoms or is a group $-L^1.O.L^2-$ wherein each of L^1 and L^2 is alkylene having at least two carbon atoms and taken together L^1 and L^2 have up to 11 carbon atoms; and

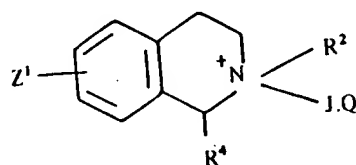
X^- is an anion.

The process for the preparation of each

compounds comprises inter alia:
 (a) quaternising a ditertiary base of the formula



or a corresponding monotertiary base where-
 in one of the isoquinoline groups is substi-
 tuted in the 2- position by a group R² or
 R³, with a quaternising agent suitable for
 introducing one or both of R² and R³ as
 appropriate; or
 (b) esterifying a compound of the
 formula



by reaction with a compound of formula
 $Q^1.L.Q^2$

wherein J is alkylene having 1 to 3 carbon
 atoms, Q and Q¹ are functional groups or
 atoms which react together to form an ester
 linkage, and Q² is a functional group which
 will react with Q to form an ester linkage or
 a group.

The compounds are for use as active
 ingredients of pharmaceutical compositions
 having neuromuscular blocking activity.